

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Hachiya et al., US Patent number 5,762,851. For the reasons which follow, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 1 calls for a process for cooling polyethylene terephthalate pellets. As noted in the Office Action, Hachiya et al. is directed towards a process for making polycarbonate pellets. However, the Examiner regards it as having been "obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the method for preparation of polyethylene terephthalate pellets since they would be structurally analogous."

It is well recognized in the art that polycarbonates are made with different starting materials from the starting materials used to make polyethylene terephthalate polymers, are conditioned and processed by different methods, and have different properties. There is no suggestion or hint in Hachiya et al. that conditioning polycarbonates by cooling is suitable for use in any polymer other than polycarbonates. The inquiry is not whether one of ordinary skill in the art could have cooled PET by a similar method used in Hachiya, et al., but rather, whether Hachiya, et al. suggests to those of skill in the art to employ the cooling technique used on polycarbonate polymers in polymers other than polycarbonates. Such a suggestion is not found in Hachiya et al.

Claim 1 also calls for "*contacting pellets exiting a solid stating reactor...*" The features in this phrase lie in making contact with a pellet (which by nature is solid), exiting a solid stating reactor. The polycarbonate polymer described by Hachiya et al. exits through a dye of an extruder, and not a solid stating reactor. There is no suggestion found in Hachiya, et al. to process a polycarbonate exiting a solid stating reactor. Secondly, the polycarbonate polymer which is cooled in the process described by Hachiya, et al. is molten. This is because the process described by Hachiya, et al. is a pelletizing process whereby the molten polycarbonate is melt extruded through a dye and cut after being cooled with water. Hachiya, et al. does not disclose or suggest contacting pellets with water.

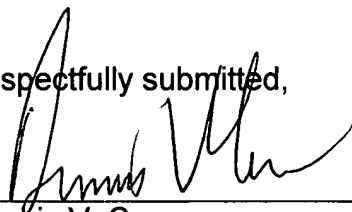
For these reasons, Applicants submit that all claims are patentable over Hachiya, et al.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any further inquiries regarding the prosecution of this application.

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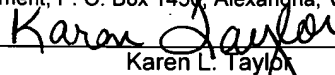
Respectfully submitted,


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11/15/2005
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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Karen L. Taylor

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Date